



NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-6000

FOIA Case: 105317B
6 May 2019

ROBERT DELAWARE
MUCKROCK NEWS
DEPT MR 61836
411A HIGHLAND AVENUE
SOMERVILLE MA 02144-2516

Dear Mr. Delaware:

This is the final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of 30 September 2018 for Intellipedia records on Abu Nidal or the Abu Nidal Organization. As stated in our initial response, dated 11 October 2018, your request was assigned Case Number 105317. For purposes of this request and based on the information you provided, you are considered an "all other" requester. As such, you are allowed 2 hours of search time and the duplication of 100 pages at no cost. There are no assessable fees for this request. Your request has been processed under the FOIA.

An additional document responsive to your request is enclosed. Certain information, however, has been deleted from the document.

This Agency is authorized by statute to protect certain information concerning its activities (in this case, internal URLs), as well as the names of its employees. Such information is exempt from disclosure pursuant to the third exemption of the FOIA, which provides for the withholding of information specifically protected from disclosure by statute. The specific statute applicable in this case is Section 6, Public Law 86-36 (50 U.S. Code 3605). We have determined that such information exists in this record, and we have excised it accordingly.

In addition, personal information regarding individuals has been deleted from the enclosure in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552 (b)(6). This exemption protects from disclosure information that would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. In balancing the public interest for the information you requested against the privacy interests involved, we have determined that the privacy interests sufficiently satisfy the requirements for the application of the (b)(6) exemption.

Since these deletions may be construed as a partial denial of your request, you are hereby advised of this Agency's appeal procedures. If you decide to appeal, you should do so in the manner outlined below. NSA will endeavor to respond within 20 working days of receiving any appeal, absent unusual circumstances.

- The appeal must be in sent via U.S. postal mail, fax, or electronic delivery (e-mail) and addressed to:

NSA FOIA/PA Appeal Authority (P132)
National Security Agency
9800 Savage Road STE 6932
Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-6932

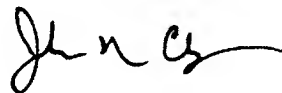
The facsimile number is (443)479-3612.

The appropriate email address to submit an appeal is FOIARSC@nsa.gov.

- It must be postmarked or delivered electronically no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. Decisions appealed after 90 days will not be addressed.
- Please include the case number provided above.
- Please describe with sufficient detail why you believe the denial of requested information was unwarranted.

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at foialo@nsa.gov for further assistance or to discuss your request. Additionally, you may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. OGIS contact information is Office of Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, MD 20740-6001; e-mail: ogis@nara.gov; main: 202-741-5770; toll free: 1-877-684-6448; or fax: 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,



JOHN R. CHAPMAN
Chief, FOIA/PA Office
NSA Initial Denial Authority

Encl:
a/s

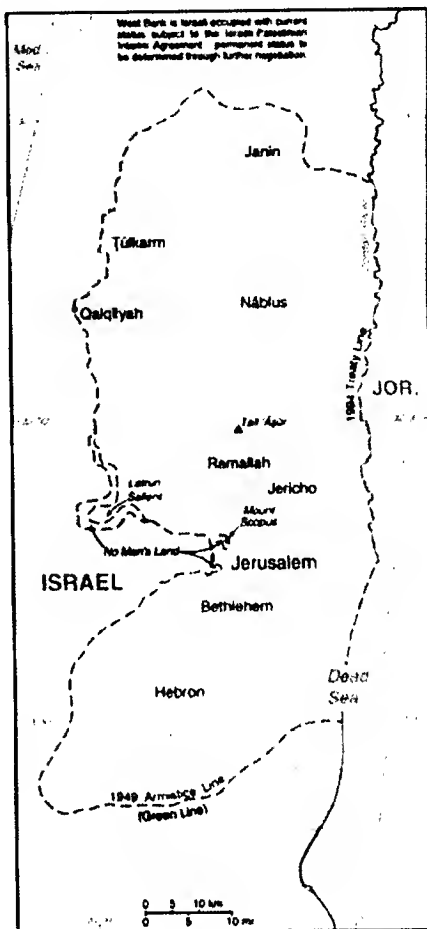
~~SECRET//FOUO~~

(U) The **Abu Nidal Organization (ANO)** (*a.k.a. Arab Revolutionary Brigades, Arab Revolutionary Council, Black September, Fatah Revolutionary Council, Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Muslims*) is a secular international terrorist organization that received support from Iraq, Libya, and Syria and has attacked a number of Western, Israeli, and Arab targets over the last thirty years. The group is now largely considered inactive since the death of its founder, Sabri Al-Banna in Iraq in August of 2002.

- 1 ABU NIDAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATION. 1985
- 2 Background
- 3 Additional Reading
- 4 References

ABU NIDAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATION. 1985

~~(S)~~ THE ABU NIDAL GROUP IS AMONG THE MOST DANGEROUS AND RUTHLESS OF THE MIDDLE EASTERN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS. IT IS PROBABLY THE BEST ORGANIZED AND MOST EFFECTIVE OF THE RADICAL PALESTINIAN TERRORIST GROUPS, CAREFULLY PLANNING ITS OPERATIONS AND KEEPING ITS INFORMATION TIGHTLY COMPARTMENTED. FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS, THE ORGANIZATION HAS CONCENTRATED ON JORDANIAN AND PRO-ARAFAT PLO TARGETS, BUT THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT IT IS AGAIN BROADENING ITS OPERATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN EUROPE. [1]



- Politics of Palestine: Arab-Brit
- Constitution
- President Aflaq
- Elections
- Political parties
 - Falach
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- Government
 - West Bank
 - Gaza
- Economy
- Education
- Environment
- Human rights
- Foreign affairs

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~~(S)~~ THE ORGANIZATION HAS A NUMBER OF COVER NAMES INCLUDING BLACK JUNE NO. [REDACTED]

LONGER USED, AND THE FATAH REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. MORE RECENTLY, IT HAS BEGUN USING THE NAME ARAB REVOLUTIONARY BRIGADES WHEN STAGING ATTACKS AGAINST GULF TARGETS AND EGYPT. IT ALSO CALLS ITSELF BLACK SEPTEMBER IN ATTACKS AGAINST JORDANIAN AND PALESTINIAN TARGETS, AND THE REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION OF SOCIALIST MUSLIMS (ROSM) IN ATTACKS AGAINST BRITISH TARGETS.

~~(S)~~ THE ABU NIDAL GROUP WAS FORMED IN 1974 FROM ELEMENTS WHICH BROKE AWAY FROM ARAFAT'S FATAH ORGANIZATION AFTER HE ANNOUNCED A BAN ON PLO INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM OUTSIDE ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. THE GROUP IS HEADED BY SABRI AL-BANNA WHO GOES BY THE NAME OF ABU NIDAL. UNLIKE MANY TERRORIST GROUPS, HOWEVER, IT IS SO WELL ORGANIZED, THAT IT CAN FUNCTION WITH OR WITHOUT ITS LEADER. INDEED, BEFORE A NOVEMBER 19, 1985 INTERVIEW FROM LIBYA, ABU NIDAL WAS WIDELY RUMORED TO BE DEAD. THE ABU NIDAL GROUP ALSO APPEARS TO BE LESS DEPENDENT ON OUTSIDE FINANCING THAN OTHER GROUPS, IN PART BECAUSE OF ITS ABILITY TO GENERATE INCOME ON ITS OWN.

~~(S)~~ THE GROUP IS COMMITTED TO THE USE OF VIOLENCE TO DESTROY DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO RECONCILE ISRAEL AND THE ARAB STATES. IT ALSO CALLS FOR THE OVERTHROW OF ALL CONSERVATIVE AND MODERATE ARAB REGIMES AS WELL AS FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF MODERATE ELEMENTS IN THE PLO, NOTABLY ARAFAT'S FATAH ORGANIZATION. IT CONTENDS THAT BOTH INTER-ARAB AND INTRA-PALESTINIAN TERRORISM ARE NEEDED TO CREATE AN ALL EMBRACING ARAB REVOLUTION WHICH WILL IN TURN LIBERATE PALESTINE. TO FURTHER ITS REVOLUTIONARY AIMS, IT WILL ALSO STRIKE AT EUROPEAN AND OTHER TARGETS IF IT BELIEVES THAT THERE IS ANY TACTICAL ADVANTAGE IN DOING SO.

Background



Abu Nidal from
a 1976 Israeli
Defense Forces
photo

(U) The Abu Nidal Organization (ANO) was founded by Sabri Al-Banna (who used the *nom de guerre* Abu Nidal, which means "father of the struggle" in Arabic) and grew out of elements that broke away from Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah organization. The group is committed to the use of violence to destroy diplomatic efforts designed to reconcile Israel and the Arab states. The organization contended that both inter-Arab and intra-Palestinian terrorism was needed to force the all-embracing Arab revolution which in turn would lead to the liberation of Palestine.

(U) The ANO was formed in 1974 after Yasser Arafat instituted a ban on PLO involvement with international terrorism outside Israel and the occupied territories. Abu Nidal's radical views found favor at the time with the Iraqi regime, which helped him create the organization that Abu Nidal called "Fatah - The Revolutionary Council" to promote his claim that his organization, rather than the one led by Arafat, was the legitimate Fatah. He similarly duplicated other Fatah organizational titles to suggest a parallel structure with the original. [2]

Additional Reading

Doc ID: 666551 ■ (U) Paper on the Abu Nidal Group, State Department Cable, December 31, 1985

- (U) In the Spotlight: Abu Nidal Organization, Center for Defense Information, October 9, 2002

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

References

1. ABU NIDAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

2. State Department Cable, December 31, 1985

Retrieved from

Category: Palestinian Authority

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